

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14 are presently pending in this case.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Dworkin (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20020071540) in view of Dailey et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,363,352, hereinafter “Dailey”) and Achacoso et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20060090013, hereinafter “Achacoso”).

The outstanding rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites:

An information processing server managing a first service of distributing contents and a second service of providing a group chat room, ***the contents being provided to the server by a first terminal, the contents being distributed by the server in real time according to a reservation made in advance by the first terminal***, and, to a plurality of second terminals requesting the use of the first service and the use of the second service, comprising:

an acquiring unit configured to acquire reservation information, sent by the first terminal to the information processing server, from a reservation data base in order to provide the first service to the plurality of second terminals, the plurality of second terminals receiving a distribution notice in accordance with a corresponding second terminal address of the reservation from the information processing server, the distribution notice including authentication data, an electronic mail address of a user of the first terminal, and an Internet webpage address of the user of the first terminal;

a generation unit configured to generate a group chat room corresponding to the reservation at a predetermined time prior to a distribution start time designated by the reservation;

a providing unit configured to provide the group chat room to the first terminal and the plurality of second terminals coincident with the first service, the plurality of second terminals accessing the group chat room and first service in accordance with authentication data of the received distribution notice upon a first contact with the server; and

a viewer counting unit configured to count a number of viewers of contents distributed by the user of the first terminal and to display the number of viewers.

The outstanding office action asserted that paragraphs 21 and 31 of Dworkin implicitly describe “a viewer counting unit” as recited in Claim 1, and that column 14, lines 18-22 of Dailey also describe this feature.¹ However, it is respectfully submitted that neither of these references implicitly or exquisitely describe this feature. With regard to Dworkin, paragraph 21 of Dworkin describes that “user tracking services” may be included in the described system. There is no description of what “user tracking services” includes. These user tracking services may only track the reservations for the conferences for billing purposes. There is no teaching or suggestion that “user tracking services” includes counting all of the viewers of content distributed by a single particular user and displaying the number of viewers who have viewed that user’s content. Paragraph 31 of Dworkin describes that users can be tracked to determine if they are online, and “usage tracking and billing” can be provided. Again, there is no teaching or suggestion that either of these features includes counting all of the viewers of content distributed by a single particular user and displaying the number of viewers who have viewed that user’s content. Moreover, in the context of a business conferencing system, there is no suggestion or motivation to create such a feature, as it is unclear why a user would want to know the total number of people that have viewed all of the conferences set up by a particular person. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Dworkin does not implicitly teach or suggest “a viewer counting unit” as recited in Claim 1.

With regard to Dailey, column 14, lines 18-22 of Dailey describes that a list of people who have agreed to attend a future meeting can be provided. However, none of those people have actually attended the meeting, and thus they have not viewed any content distributed by a server in real time according to a reservation made in advance by a first terminal. Thus,

¹See the outstanding Office Action at page 4.

none of these people would be included in a count of a number of viewers of *contents distributed by the user of the first terminal*. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Dailey also does not teach or suggest “a viewer counting unit” as recited in Claim 1.

Consequently, Claim 1 (and Claims 2 and 6 dependent therefrom) is patentable over Dworkin in view of Dailey and Achacoso.

Claim 10 also recites in part “a viewer counting unit configured to count a number of viewers of contents distributed by the user of the first terminal and to display the number of viewers.” Accordingly, Claim 10 (and Claims 11-14 dependent therefrom) is patentable over Dworkin in view of Dailey and Achacoso for at least the reasons described above with respect to Claim 1.

Claims 3-5 recite in part:

counting a number of viewers of contents distributed by
the user of the first terminal; and
displaying the number of viewers.

As noted above, there is no teaching or suggestion that “user tracking services” mentioned in paragraph 21 of Dworkin includes counting all of the viewers of content distributed by a single particular user and displaying the number of viewers who have viewed that user’s content. Further, there is no teaching or suggestion that “usage tracking and billing” mentioned in paragraph 31 of Dworkin includes counting all of the viewers of content distributed by a single particular user and displaying the number of viewers who have viewed that user’s content. Finally, as none of those people in the list of attendees of a future meeting described at column 14, lines 18-22 of Dailey have actually attended the meeting, they cannot have viewed any content distributed by a server in real time according to a reservation made in advance by a first terminal. Thus, a count of these people would *not* be counting of a number of viewers of *contents distributed by the user of the first terminal*.

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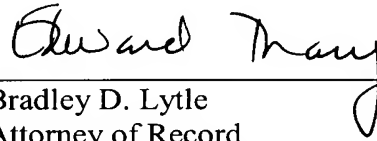
Consequently, Claims 3-5 (and Claims 7-9 dependent therefrom) are also patentable over
Dworkin in view of Dailey and Achacoso.

Accordingly, the pending claims are believed to be in condition for formal allowance.

An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bradley D. Lytle", is written over a horizontal line.

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